

Disaster Preparedness Guidelines for Livestock Owners

Published by the Indiana State Board of Animal Health

How often have you heard "failing to plan is planning to fail"? As a livestock owner, that saying couldn't be more true than when it comes to disaster preparedness. When a flood, tornado, earthquake, fire or man-made emergency (like a chemical spill) strikes, the steps you've taken ahead of time to protect your livestock investment, as well as the safety and well-being of your animals, can mean the difference between life and death.

Before

- ☐ Familiarize yourself with the types of disasters that could occur in your area, including man-made situations such as chemical spills near highways. Develop a written plan of action for each. Include a list of resources (suppliers, trucks and trailers), evacuation sites, emergency phone numbers and people who can help during an emergency. Store a copy with important papers. Review the Disaster Plan regularly with everyone involved.
- ☐ Survey your property for the best location for animal confinement in each type of disaster. Identify food and water sources that do not rely on electricity, which could be lost during an emergency.
- ☐ Decide where to take animals if evacuation is necessary. Contact fairgrounds, other producers (especially those with empty barns and pastures), stockyards and auction markets about their policies and ability to take livestock temporarily in an emergency. Have several sites in mind, in case your first choice is unavailable.
- ☐ Familiarize yourself with several evacuation routes to your destination. Avoid routes likely to be travelled heavily by people.
- ☐ Photograph, identify (brands, eartags, nose prints, etc.) and inventory (by age, sex, weight, breed) your animals. Identify in a written list which animals (such as breeding stock) are of the highest priority or most valuable, in the event only some of them can be saved. Make sure others know your plans. Keep copies with important papers.
- ☐ Keep vaccinations and boosters up-to-date. Record the dates, dosages and types of medications and health products the animals have received. Record dosing instructions and dietary requirements. Keep this information with the Disaster Plan.
- ☐ Compile an Emergency Disaster Kit. Make sure it is always ready.

Emergency Disaster Kit

Portable radio
Extra batteries
Animal restraint equipment
Water bucket

Portable generators
First aid kit
Stored feeds
Flashlights

Sharp knife
Wire cutters
Ropes, halters
Bleach, lime

During

- ☐ Listen to the Emergency Broadcast System radio/tv station.
- ☐ If possible, evacuate your livestock early to ensure their safety, protect your investment and ease your stress. Better safe than sorry!
- ☐ If you evacuate your livestock, take all vaccination and medical records, the Emergency Disaster Kit, and enough hay, feed and water for a minimum of 48 hours. Call ahead to your destination to make sure the site is still available.

Don't forget basic biosecurity measures if you evacuate--especially if you know your herd is under quarantine or has a communicable disease.

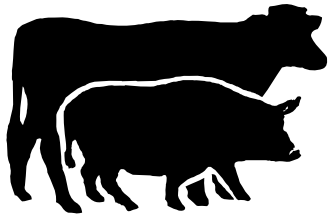
- ☐ If you must evacuate without your animals, leave them in the preselected area appropriate for disaster type. Leave enough hay, food and water for 48 hours to 72 hours. *See Disaster Feed Guide for guidelines.* Do not rely on automatic watering systems; power may be lost.

After

- ☐ Check fences; be sure they are intact. Check pastures and fences for sharp objects that could injure livestock.
- ☐ Beware of downed power lines.
- ☐ Beware of raccoons, skunks and other wild animals that may have entered the area and could pose a danger to your animals.
- ☐ If animals are lost, contact veterinarians, humane societies, stables, surrounding farms and other facilities. Listen to the Emergency Broadcast System for groups that may be accepting lost animals.
- ☐ Check with your veterinarian and State Board of Animal Health for information about possible disease outbreaks.



For more information about Disaster Preparedness, contact:
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Disaster Feed Guidelines for Livestock Owners

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Swine

Animal Type	Water/Day	Feed/Day
Brood sow with litter	4 gallons summer 3 gallons winter	8 pounds grain
Sow in gestation	1-2 gallons summer 1 gallon winter	2 pounds grain
150-pound gilt/boar	1 gallon	3 pounds grain

Sheep

Animal Type	Water/Day	Feed/Day
Ewe with lamb	4 quarts	5 pounds hay
Ewe, dry	3 quarts	3 pounds hay
Weaning lamb	2 quarts	3 pounds hay

Dairy Cattle

Animal Type	Water/Day	Feed/Day
In production	9 gallons summer 7 gallons winter	20 pounds hay
Dry cows	9 gallons summer 7 gallons winter	20 pounds hay
Weaning cows	6 gallons summer 3 gallons winter	8-12 pounds hay
Cow in gestation	7 gallons summer 6 gallons winter	10-15 pounds legume hay
Cow with calf	9 gallons summer 8 gallons winter	12-18 pounds legume hay
Calf (400 pounds)	6 gallons summer 4 gallons winter	8-12 pounds legume hay